INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO

Connections

Office of the Chancellor • Indiana University Kokomo • October–December 2006

Education offers solutions for nation’s future

Last spring, IU Kokomo became one of hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States to join the American Council on Education’s “Solutions for Our Future” campaign. This campaign is a national project to demonstrate how American colleges and universities serve the public. It is designed to “refocus Americans on the value of higher education and its importance to our future prosperity.” You can visit www.solutionsforourfuture.org to learn more.

In this issue of Connections, you will read about a few of the many ways that our campus serves the public and makes knowledge work. “Walk and Talk Kokomo” is a great example of service to Howard County. On Saturday, October 14, many of us from campus will be stationed at various businesses to hand out educational materials for young children. Our education students will be getting firsthand service experience, and the public will benefit as well. Our goal with this project is to make sure every young child in Howard County is ready to learn before entering school.

Student interns serve as a valuable community resource for local organizations and gain an opportunity to put their knowledge to work in “real time.” You can read about Lifeng Guo, a shining example of this, on the reverse page. Over and over, I have had former students tell me how valuable internship experiences were to them, and employers tell me how much the experience helped their organization.

We are always looking for new ways to serve north central Indiana. If you have suggestions of new activities or endeavors we can undertake to provide a benefit to our region, let us know. We can be a solution for your future!

Chancellor Ruth J. Person

‘Walk and Talk’ to help tots learn

It’s Saturday. You need to gas up the car, buy groceries, get the kids’ hair cut, maybe squeeze in lunch. Can you add “learning” to that list?

You can on Saturday, October 14, when the IU Kokomo Division of Education and the Howard County Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) sponsor “Walk and Talk Kokomo.” Education students will be stationed at Kokomo businesses and parks, demonstrating day-to-day activities in which parents can teach numbers, colors, and words to young children. Participants can receive educational materials for children.

“The children, children as young as 2 can learn the names of fruits and vegetables, the colors of items, and what words like ‘can’ and ‘box’ mean,” said ECEC director Marilyn Skinner. “At a gas station, talk to youngsters about the numbers changing on the pump or the store’s signs. In a restaurant, discuss which foods are hot or cold, which you eat or drink.” These fun interchanges can help children develop literacy and number skills that will help them learn when they enter kindergarten, Skinner said. For more ideas, contact the ECEC at (765) 455-9427 or msskinne@iuk.edu.

Expert voices enrich classes

Outside experts shared insights with IU Kokomo students in August and September. Indiana Public Health Department Epidemiologist Robert Teclaw, D.V.M., Ph.D., told nursing students how the state deals with recent headline-making outbreaks of infectious diseases. IU Bloomington Professor of History Michael Grossberg, Ph.D., discussed historic attempts to amend the U.S. Constitution and the current debate over gay marriage. Isidor Wallimann, Ph.D., professor of sociology and economics at the University of Applied Sciences Northwest Switzerland, addressed three classes, comparing European and U.S. approaches to politics, credit, and immigration.

Pulitzer Prize winner Sonia Nazario comes to campus November 13 and 14. Hundreds of students are studying Nazario’s Enrique’s Journey, a non-fiction account of illegal immigrants from Central America, in a fall common reading program.

In spring 2007, Lee Lewellen, vice president of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, Inc., will teach sociology through IU Kokomo’s ACCELerated Evening College.

November 13
Public lecture by Sonia Nazario
7 p.m. Kelley Student Center. 
Author of Enrique’s Journey will address social and political issues of illegal immigration. The book is the focus of a campus-wide common reading program.

Visit www.iuk.edu for more information on Indiana University Kokomo.
PaperFree Medical Solutions sold on IU Kokomo student interns

President and CEO of PaperFree Medical Solutions Steve Hawksworth wants more IU Kokomo student interns for his growing Kokomo technology and services company. Last summer, accounting major Lifeng Guo of Kokomo worked as an intern at PaperFree, which provides professional and technical computer services to medical practitioners. Supervised by financial controller Robin Cooper, Guo served in the accounts payable and receivable function. “This gave us additional time for [Cooper] to turn her attention to other things,” Hawksworth said. Armed with good general business knowledge from her IU Kokomo courses, “Lifeng was ready to start work,” he added. “She brought a real passion to learn. We look forward to repeating the experience with more interns.”

Guo said Hawksworth included her in company meetings and assigned her other projects that gave her “a sense of belonging.” Watching Cooper’s constant interaction with associates, Guo said, helped her “realize the importance of communication and interpersonal skills at work. Mastering book knowledge is not enough to prepare you for an accounting career.”

Cooper earned an accounting degree at IU Kokomo in 2003, after taking classes for 10 years. “She inspires me to complete my degree,” Guo said.

For her 40-hour-a-week internship, Guo received course credit and a stipend paid through an “Initiative to Promote Opportunity Through Educational Collaborations” grant to IU from Lilly Endowment, Inc. Assistant Director of Business and Community Outreach Candy Norman said her office can offer internship stipends to small-to-medium high-growth companies. “PaperFree so closely matches the type of company the grant strives to support, that we were permitted to pay for the entire 240 credit hours required of accounting interns.” For information, contact Norman at caanorma@iuk.edu or (765) 455-9406.

Indiana University Kokomo is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. Persons needing this information in an alternative format should contact the Office of Affirmative Action at (765) 455-9529.

Calendar of Events

October 1–29
Body in Question Exhibition
IU Kokomo Art Gallery.*

October 6
Recycled Percussion
8 p.m. Havens Auditorium.

October 10
Adult Student Open House
4–7 p.m. Kelley Student Center.

October 12
Last Lecture by John Rudy
6 p.m. IU Kokomo Art Gallery.

October 13
IU Kokomo Open BBQ
7 p.m. Alumni Hall.

October 15
IU Kokomo Fall Festival
IU Kokomo Art Gallery.*

November 13
Public Lecture by Sonia Nazario
7 p.m. Kelley Student Center.

November 22–26
Thanksgiving Recess, Campus Closed

November 26–December 10
Elementary School Exhibition
IU Kokomo Art Gallery.*

December 1
IUK Singers Winter Concert
7 p.m. Havens Auditorium.

December 2
Benefit Concert
4–9 p.m. Kelley Student Center.

December 23–January 1
Winter Recess, Campus Closed

*Gallery hours Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Wednesdays, until 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon–4 p.m.